

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4773
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
BENEFITS TO DALITS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the definition of Dalit and the categories of people included therein;
- (b) whether the Dalits are getting reservation only under Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist religion;
- (c) if so, whether other communities and minorities are not getting the benefits provided to Dalits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

- (a) The term `Dalit` has neither been defined in the Constitution nor in any law in force. However, the term `Scheduled Castes` (SCs) has been defined in clause (24) of article 366 of the Constitution.
- (b) to (d): In exercise of powers under clause (1) of Article 341 of the Constitution, the President has made six Orders specifying castes etc. as SCs in relation to various States and Union Territories. These Orders, inter-alia, contain a stipulation that `no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of Scheduled Caste.` A number of writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the above stipulation and the matter is, presently sub judice.